

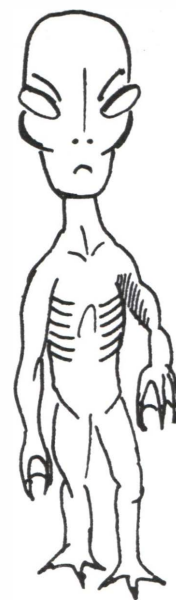
This is Bilk for January 1990 - Still published by Ulrich Magin -
Stuhlbruderhofstr. 4 - 6704 Mutterstadt - West Germany. Subs (6 issues)
for 15 DM. This time we have a special "intelligent life in the
oceans" issue!

Behemoth:

- Lake Manasarowar, Tibet - In Tibet, still occupied by the Chinese, Lake Manasarowar is sacred to the Buddhists - a very important geomantic point, shaped by the Hindu God Brahma, with its circumference of 25 kilometres it is only equalled by the capital Lhasa in importance. In a book recently published here (Peter Somerville-Large: Zum Dach der Welt. Econ: Düsseldorf 1988, p.233; UK original: To the Navel of the World. Hamish Hamilton: London 1987) we learn that William Moorcroft discovered a monster in the lake in 1812: "a giant animal or fish like a porpoise...It remained over water for a long time. It had a brown colour and apparently hairs." Somerville thinks it may have been an oversized otter.
- The German movie "Nessie" (1985), directed by R. Zehetgruber, was screened in German TV on Nov 17 - some good scenes on site in Scotland, some nice special effects with a monster modelled after Peter Costello's ideas, and a shallow and stupid script.
- According to F. de Sarre, the shark caught in a French river could have been a ^{cat-fish} shark.
- A good article on the so-called Nessie report by St Columba, by Ch. Thomas, in "Cryptozoology" 7, 1988: 38 - 45. He concludes that the saint may have seen any kind of large pinniped.

Isis:

- "Onitsha, Nigeria - River sacrifice (Reuter) - A young man drowned in the River Niger after plunging in to catch a goat sacrificed to 'the mermaid of the river'." (The Times, 28.10.,p.9). More on Nigerian mermaid myths: see Fortean Times 46, p.4
- South Africa: For some time now, I've noted that humanoids in Ufos come in two types: the dwarfs in diving suits, and the frog-like creatures. The second type is what legend calls the Nix, or water spirit. Now this type has been crossed with the hypnosis-induced 'embryo'-type of ET: According to Tony Dodd, on 7 May 89, Sth African military jets shot down a saucer over the Kalahari desert. Inside were 2 humanoids - with 3 toes and webbed hands. It appears they did not fall under Apartheid's travelling restrictions for non-whites, and were sent to the US and interrogated at the base at Dayton, Ohio. My picture comes from the tabloid "Bildwoche" (28.10.,p.3) and shows the space-age variety of the frogman - they can afford being naked, having nothing offensive between their legs!
- Bibliography: On the lizard Man; Pursuit 21:3, 1988,p. 136, uninformed comment by Beckjord on p. 138. -Time, Nov 20,p.59: Disney starts animated film "The little mermaid".



Leviathan:

- Leatherback turtles: The giant turtle of Harlech is now on display in the National Museum, Cardiff (The Times, 5 Dec, p.6) - A 500-pound leatherback turtle was found "in a parking lot" at Portland, Maine. It was brought to the New England Aquarium in Boston (Arab News, 10. Oct).
- Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: A "huge fish" found dead at the Red Sea coast in Jizan in Oct. was not a blue whale, according to Dr Nawab, but belongs to the "ash-colored whales". Arab News, 2 Nov, p.2e

USOs:

- Portland: William Cooper, while doing service on the submarine USS TIRU (SS-416) allegedly saw a UFO "as large as an aircraft carrier" shoot out of the sea and disappear in the clouds in Dec 1955, in the Portland-Seattle area. Cooper is one of the informants in the highly controversial NJ 12-affair, his sighting is presumably a hoax. (JUFOP, Sept 89, p.136).

- Cadiz, Spain: According to the Madrid newspaper ABC (27, July 88), scientist begin to explore a submarine trench off Cadiz. Some people believe that this trench is a Ufo-base, as strange lights are frequently observed in the area.
- New York: In the wake of the recent excitement over an alleged Ufo landing in Voronesh, USSR, American researcher Bill Knell claimed that a saucer had landed right beside a lake in Kissena Park, NYC. He quotes several witnesses and claims he found landing traces. Locals say the traces come from children playing - none of them had ever experienced something unusual at the lake - Arab News, 13 Oct, p.16
- In the action movie Abyss, aliens have a submarine base and communicate with earthlings. The trailer shown in our Cinemas shows a scene with a worm-like monster made of water. Reviews were published in many German magazines, mainly negative.
- Canary Islands, Spain: Cuadernos de Ufologia 6, Sept 89, p.28 - During a Ufo watch commemorating K. Arnold's first sighting, several witnesses observed "a giant luminous ball" coming out of the sea between La Palma and Teneriffe, on June 24, 1989.
- American seaboard? - Pursuit 21:3, 1988, p.124 briefly mentions a "couple (who) claims an encounter with a UFO-like craft under the sea."
- Barents Sea: A Soviet sub was caught in the nets of a Norwegian trawler in the Barents Sea, on Oct. 31. A similar incident, which again involved a Soviet Sub, took place in August. This incident was widely reported in the papers, including: El País, 3 Nov, p.5a; Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 Nov, p.14c; The Times, 3 Nov, p.8; Arab News, 5 Nov, p.16f.
- Aachen, Germany - Two "flying discs", which hovered 300 yards over a reservoir for 45 minutes were spotted in the border region of Belgium and West Germany, moving from Eupen (B) to Aachen (G). They emitted three strong searchlights. Sounds like helicopters inspecting the dam to me - Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 Dec, p.13f.

Whales:

- Soviet ice-breaker Sibir saved hundreds of beluga whales trapped in ice in the Kara Sea (The Times, 27 Oct, p.12).
- Killer whale accompanies the ferry Voksa on her passage south of Aalesund, Norway. It attracts tourists and journalists from all over the world. Whales sometimes do this, and remain loyal to a certain ship for long periods (The Stars and Stripes/ European Edition, 29 Oct, p.8).
- 18-metres sperm whale stranded near Perpignon, France (Rheinpfalz, 20 Nov). All in all, 5 whales stranded in the Narbonne-region of France within one week! (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 Nov, p.9a)

Short Bits:

- Shark attack off Brisbane, Australia, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 Nov, p.15.
- Earliest fossil amphibian: The Times, 23 Nov, p.7
- 16 ft fossil pliosaurus discovered at Richmond, West Queensland, Australia - Montral Gazette, 11 Nov).

The "Halfren owlman":

● I mentioned this new case in the last Bilk. Now Janet Bord wrote to me: "I was very amused to see your item on Owlman...This seems to be a classic example of how false reports arise and are absorbed into the literature as fact. (Jean Wood's article) is obviously only a rehash of items picked up from wide reading...including our own Modern Mysteries of Britain. In that book, at the point where I am describing Owlman, you will find my description of how I saw an owl in Hafren Forest rise up vertically from the trees, looking just like the Cornish Owlman. It was this fact which caused me to believe that 'Owlman' was in fact simply an owl." Thanks to Janet for pointing out. This is actually how many "authentic reports" start!

Credits:

to Joe Karwyski, Michel Raynal, P. de Sarre and Janet Bord.

Concluding quote:

"There is some quality in man which makes him people the ocean with monsters and one wonders whether they are there or not. In one sense they are, for we continue to see them." - John Steinbeck: The Log of Taji Cortez.